



DARK MOON RISING

BATMAN

and *The* MAD MONK



3

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2006

MATT
WAGNER

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Easy does it
there, Bruce.

I DON'T
CARE IF THAT
HURTS.

I AM A
MASTER OF PAIN
AND SUFFERING AND
YOU'RE MY LATEST
GUINEA PIG. NOW...

WHO IS
"THE MONK"?

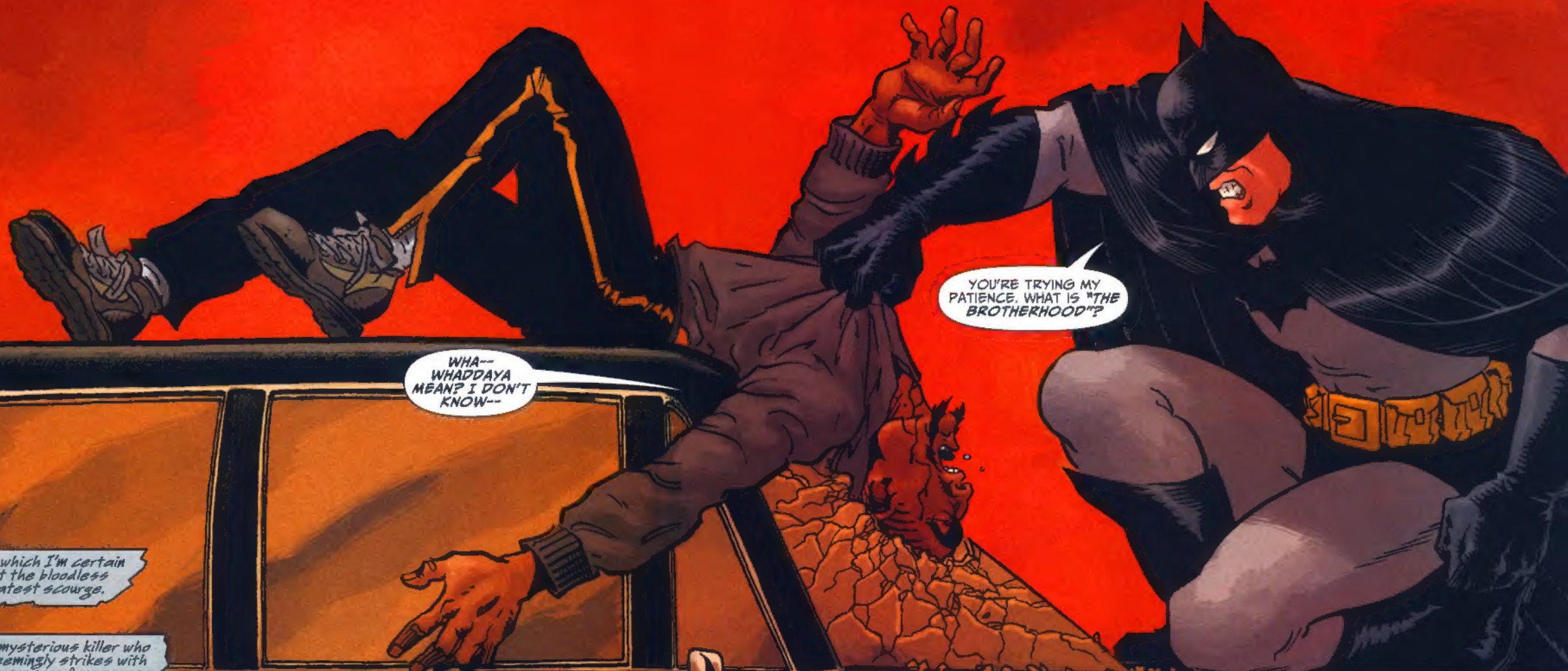
He's no good to me
with a concussion.

MATT WAGNER • STORY & ART

DAVE STEWART • ROB LEIGH • WAGNER & STEWART • BRANDON MONTCLARE • BOB SCHRECK • BATMAN
• COLORS • LETTERS • COVER • ASST. EDITOR • EDITOR • CREATED BY

BOB KANE

Inside this abandoned warehouse...



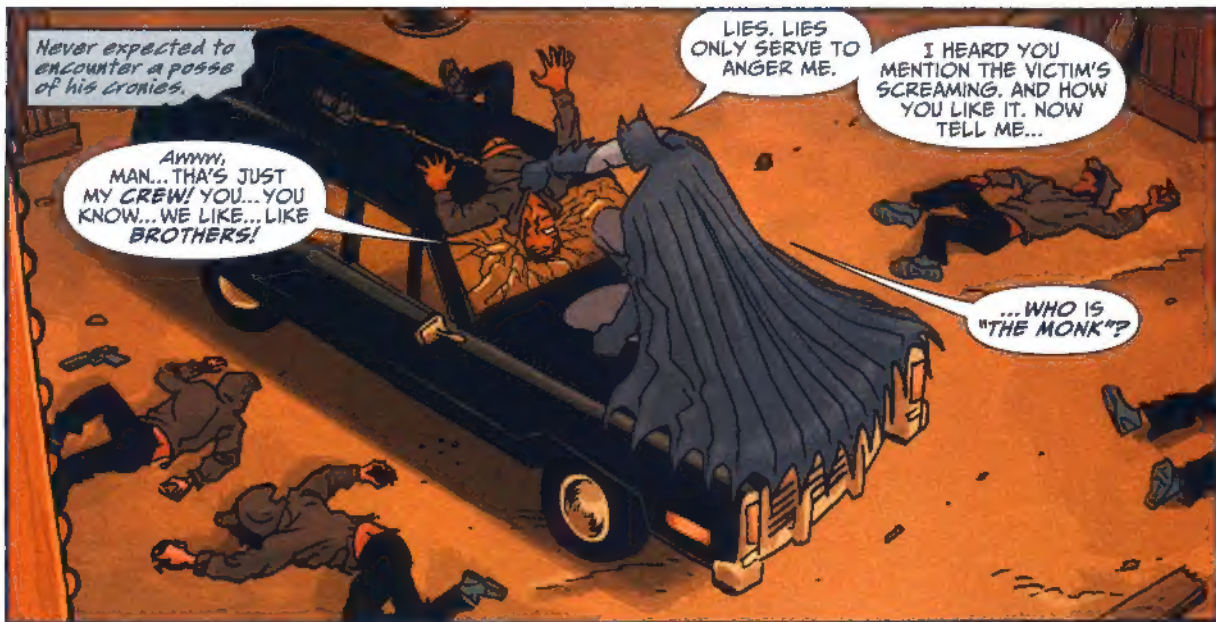
YOU'RE TRYING MY PATIENCE. WHAT IS "THE BROTHERHOOD"?

WHA-- WHADDAYA MEAN? I DON'T KNOW--

...I tracked a hearse which I'm certain was used to transport the bloodless bodies of GOTHAM's latest scourge.

A mysterious killer who seemingly strikes with no concern for purpose or profit.

I had assumed this was the work of a deranged loner.



Never expected to encounter a posse of his cronies.

AMMM, MAN... THA'S JUST MY CREW! YOU... YOU KNOW... WE LIKE... LIKE BROTHERS!

LIES. LIES ONLY SERVE TO ANGER ME.

I HEARD YOU MENTION THE VICTIM'S SCREAMING. AND HOW YOU LIKE IT. NOW TELL ME...

...WHO IS "THE MONK"?



NO! NO... I--I CAN'T... I CAN'T--



WRONG. YOU CAN.

YOU CAN ALSO EXPERIENCE BROKEN BONES. INTERNAL BLEEDING. DISLOCATED JOINTS.



I HAD THOUGHT THAT AN EVENING
OUT WITH FRIENDS MIGHT
RELIEVE MY GENERAL MALAISE.

UNFORTUNATELY, SHARON AND CRYSTAL ARE BOTH SO
PRIVILEGED AND PAMPERED, IT'S NEARLY THREE HOURS
BEFORE EITHER OF THEM EVEN NOTICES THAT I'M BLUE.

SO I TOLD HIM,
"DADDY, HOW AM
I SUPPOSED TO LIVE
WITHOUT MY SUMMERS
IN CAPRI?"

Nmmm...

I KNOW
WHAT YOU MEAN.
I CAN'T HELP IT IF I JUST
PREFER PARIS! THERE'S
THIS LITTLE SHOE SHOP
ON THE CHAMPS-
ÉLYSÉES...

Nmmm...

I GOTTA SAY, JULIE, YOU
CERTAINLY DON'T SEEM VERY
WITH IT TONIGHT!

ARE YOU
KIDDING?

SHE'S HAD IT MADE
SINCE HOOKING UP
WITH THAT YUMMY BRUCE
WAYNE! TALK ABOUT
HITTING THE JACKPOT!

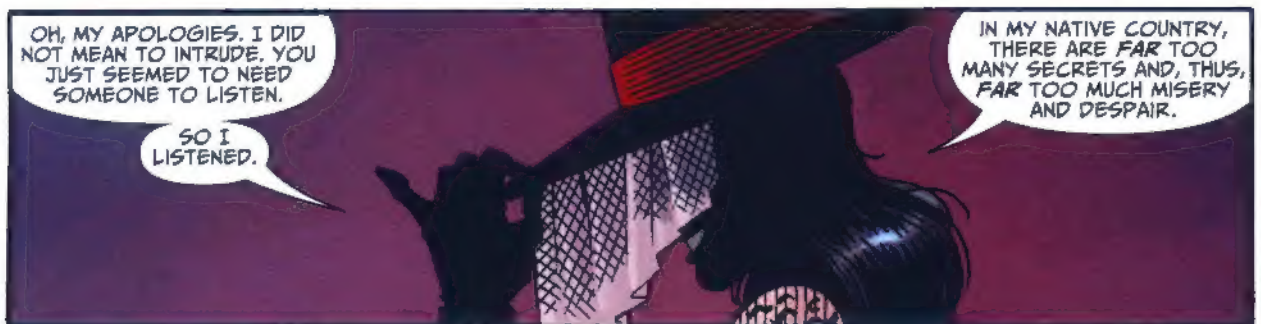
NO, IN FACT,
I'M ACTUALLY
NOT DOING
SO WELL...

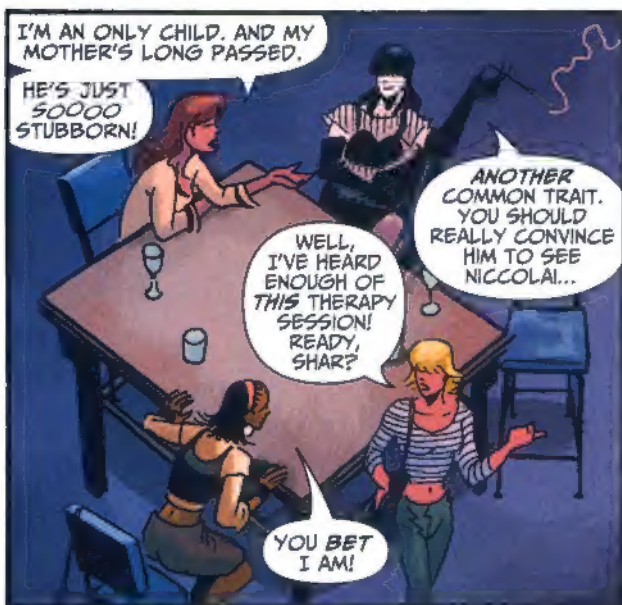
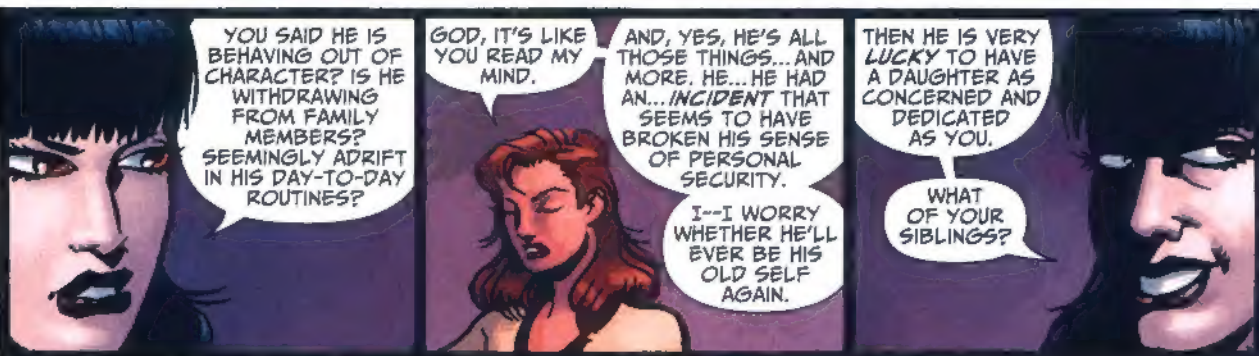
I'M...I'M
WORRIED
ABOUT MY
DAD.

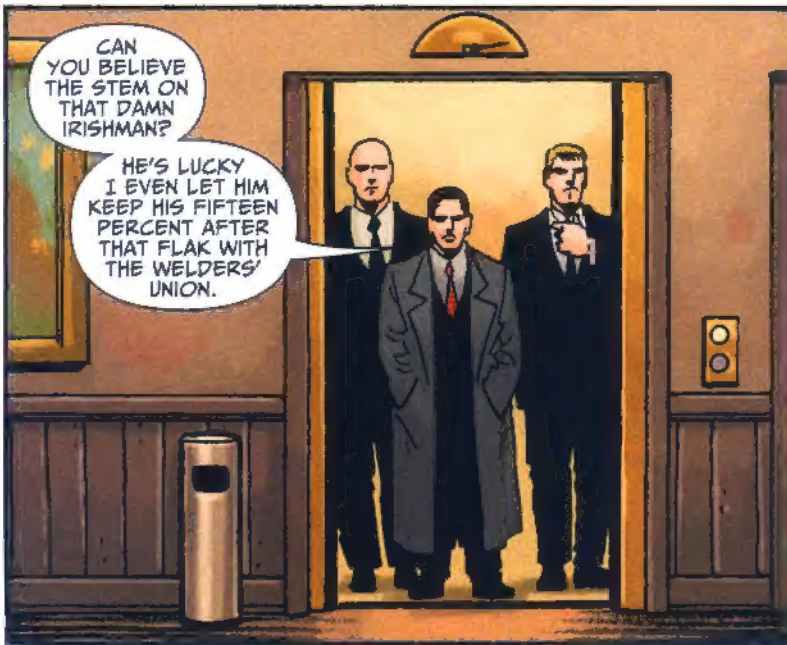
HE'S...HE'S REALLY NOT BEEN
HIMSELF LATELY, AND I JUST
WISH I COULD GET HIM TO SEEK
OUT SOME...THERAPY OR...
COUNSELING. I DON'T
KNOW...

BUT HE'S
JUST LIKE BOTH
OF YOUR FATHERS--
A CAPTAIN OF
INDUSTRY, MASTER
OF HIS OWN FATE.

SUCH MEN
ARE OFTEN IN THE
MOST NEED OF
SUCH HELP.







CAN YOU BELIEVE THE STEM ON THAT DAMN IRISHMAN?

HE'S LUCKY I EVEN LET HIM KEEP HIS FIFTEEN PERCENT AFTER THAT FLAK WITH THE WELDERS' UNION.



GIVES ME THAT KINDA LIP AGAIN AND I'LL TAKE A WELDING TORCH TO HIS DAMN EYEBALLS!!



AND NOW, JUST WHAT THE HELL IS THIS BULL--



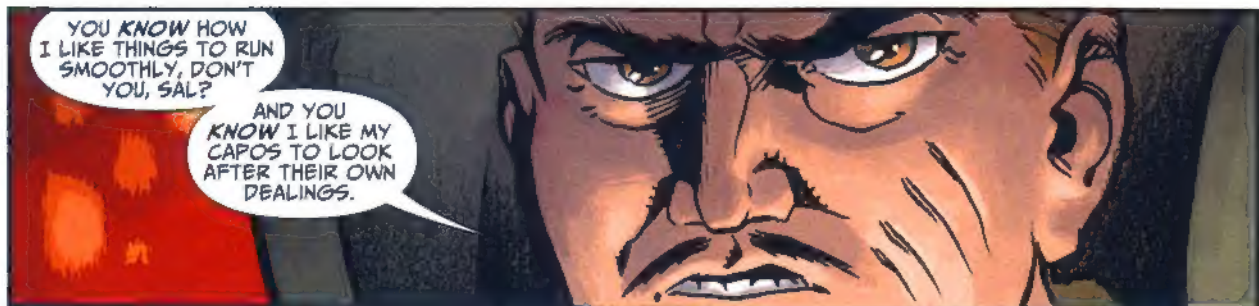
THAT'S THE TROUBLE WITH YOU, SAL... ALWAYS WITH THE ANGER AND SPITFIRE. YOU SOUND LIKE MY GRANDMA'S TEAKETTLE HALF THE TIME.

YOU NEED TO LEARN TO RELAX, SALLY.

MAN SOUNDS OFF ALL THE TIME LIKE THAT, PEOPLE START TO IGNORE WHAT HE SAYS.

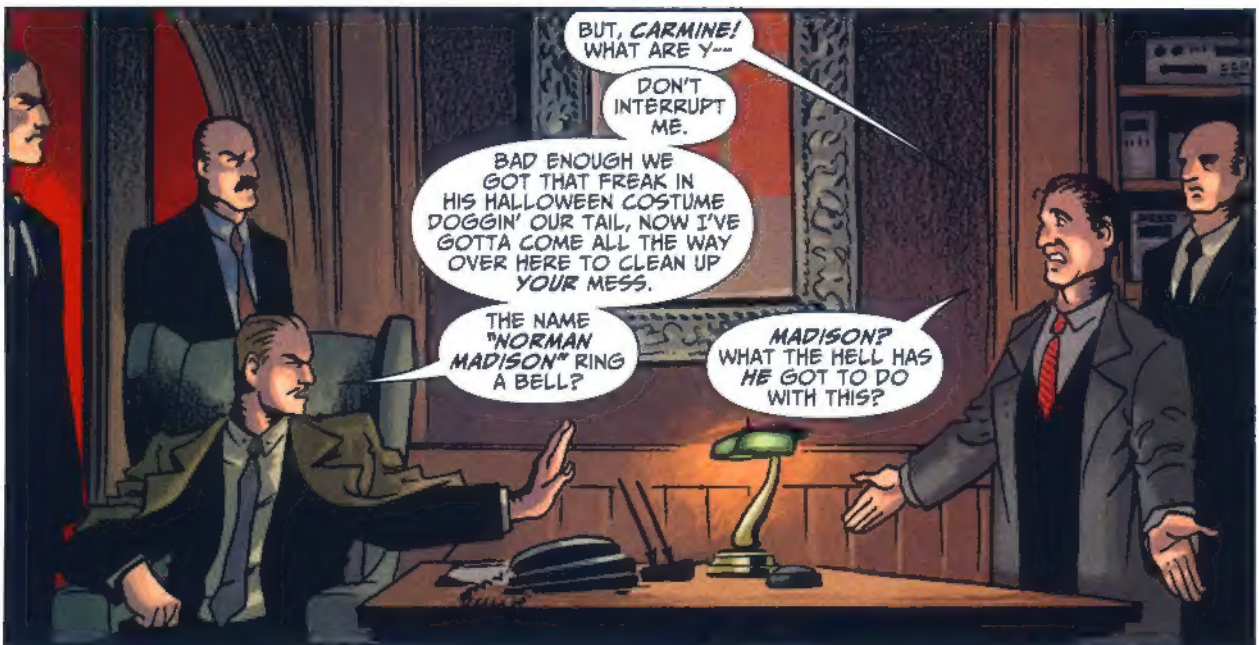
CARMINE!!

WHAT TH--? WHAT'RE YOU DO--



YOU KNOW HOW I LIKE THINGS TO RUN SMOOTHLY, DON'T YOU, SAL?

AND YOU KNOW I LIKE MY CAPOS TO LOOK AFTER THEIR OWN DEALINGS.



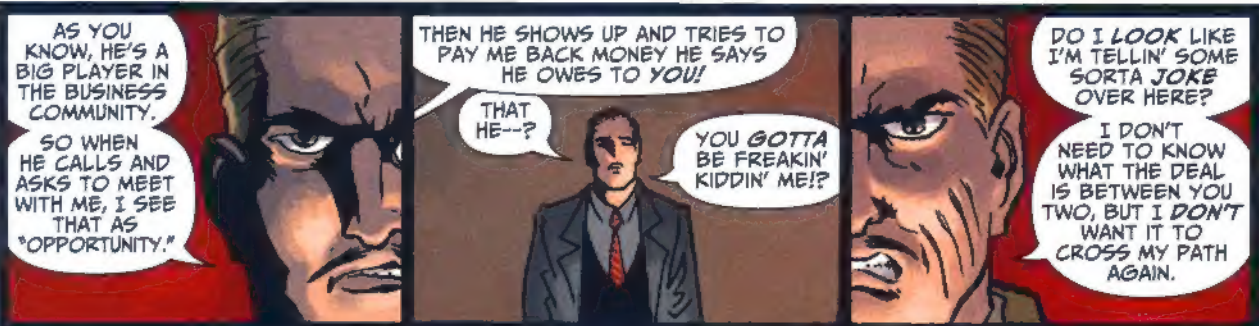
BUT, CARMINE! WHAT ARE Y--

DON'T INTERRUPT ME.

BAD ENOUGH WE GOT THAT FREAK IN HIS HALLOWEEN COSTUME DOGGIN' OUR TAIL, NOW I'VE GOTTA COME ALL THE WAY OVER HERE TO CLEAN UP YOUR MESS.

THE NAME "NORMAN MADISON" RING A BELL?

MADISON? WHAT THE HELL HAS HE GOT TO DO WITH THIS?



AS YOU KNOW, HE'S A BIG PLAYER IN THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY.

SO WHEN HE CALLS AND ASKS TO MEET WITH ME, I SEE THAT AS "OPPORTUNITY."

THEN HE SHOWS UP AND TRIES TO PAY ME BACK MONEY HE SAYS HE OWES TO YOU!

THAT HE--?

YOU GOTTA BE FREAKIN' KIDDIN' ME!?

DO I LOOK LIKE I'M TELLIN' SOME SORTA JOKE OVER HERE?

I DON'T NEED TO KNOW WHAT THE DEAL IS BETWEEN YOU TWO, BUT I DON'T WANT IT TO CROSS MY PATH AGAIN.



THEN I WON'T HAVE TO COME ALL THE WAY OVER HERE TO VISIT YOU AGAIN, SALLY. WE CLEAR ON THAT?

YEAH, CARMINE. WE'RE CLEAR.

CONSIDER IT DONE.

GOOD GOD...DADDY WOULD HAVE A FIT IF HE KNEW I SPENT THE EVENING DISCUSSING HIS PROBLEMS WITH A VIRTUAL STRANGER.

STILL, IT WAS SO NICE TO HAVE SOMEONE TO CONFIDE IN.

I MEAN, BRUCE LISTENS. BUT HE SEEMS TOO DISTRACTED HALF THE TIME.

DAMN IT! WHY WON'T THIS OPEN--?



OH-- TOMAS!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT WAS WRONG. I COULDN'T GET MY KEY TO W--

YOUR FATHER HAS HAD ALL THE LOCKS CHANGED, MISS JULIE.

HE WHAT?!

HE EVEN HAD THE LOCKSMITH INSTALL A LOCK ON THE DOOR TO HIS STUDY.

HE SEEMS VERY NERVOUS...

THANK YOU, TOMAS. I...

DADDY?

DADDY, IT'S ME! PLEASE OPEN THE DOOR?

KNOCK KNOCK



JULIE! WH-WHAT IS IT? ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!

OF COURSE. I JUST... I JUST WANTED TO CHECK ON YOU.

I'M FINE, DARLING! I'M FINE! JUST... BUSY, THAT'S ALL!



I, UHH... I'M AFRAID I CAN'T COME OUT RIGHT NOW!

BUT DADDY...! YOU--

SLAM



HE NEEDS HELP. EVEN IF HE WON'T ASK FOR IT HIMSELF.



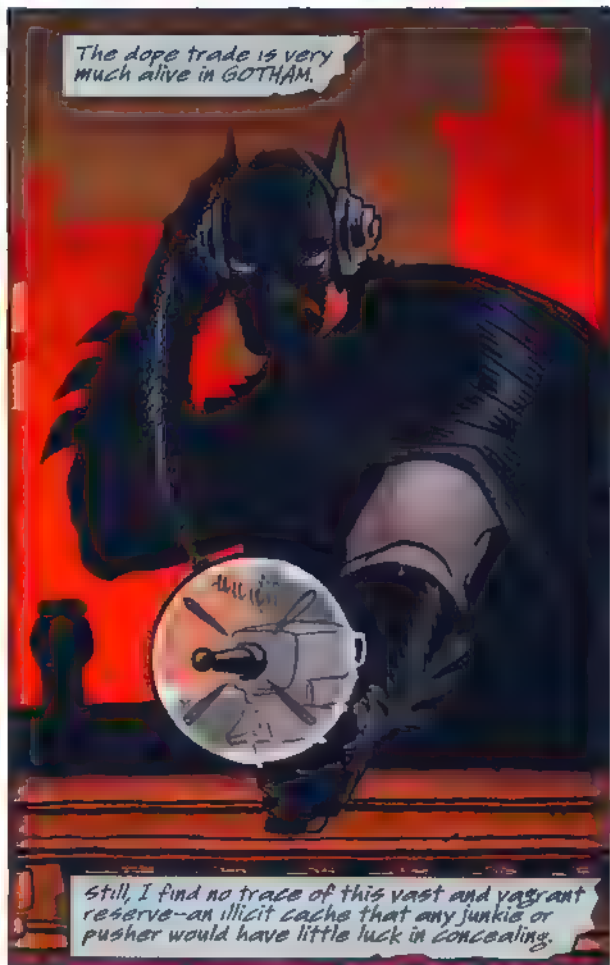
*Despite the dangers of this new
and elusive enemy, the war is
still being fought in the trenches.*

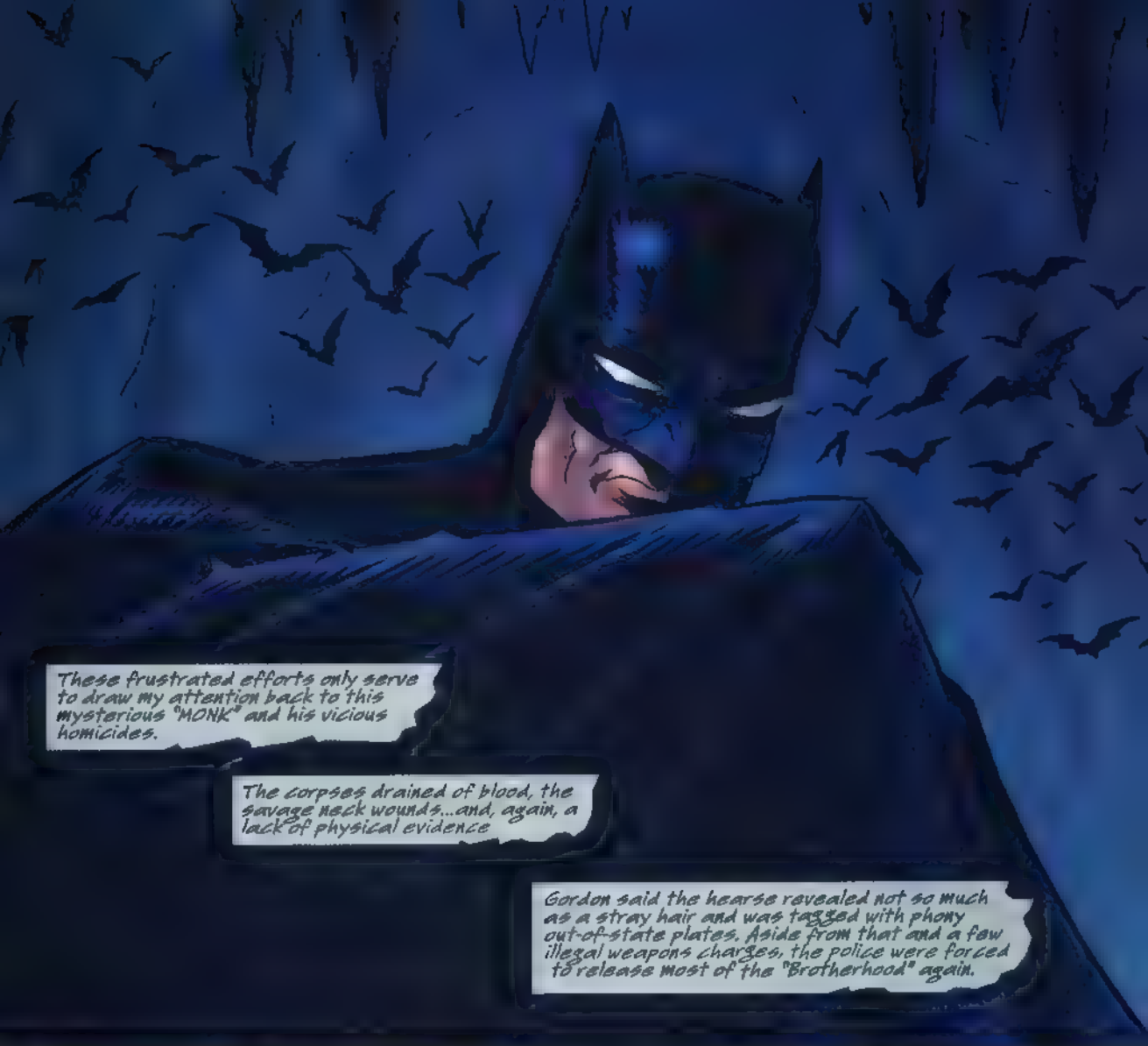
*I mustn't lose sight of another hazard
that threatens to poison the streets
of GOTHAM in a chemical flood.*



The heroin

*Sal Maroni's missing
shipment—over
nine hundred kilos
of undiluted evil.*



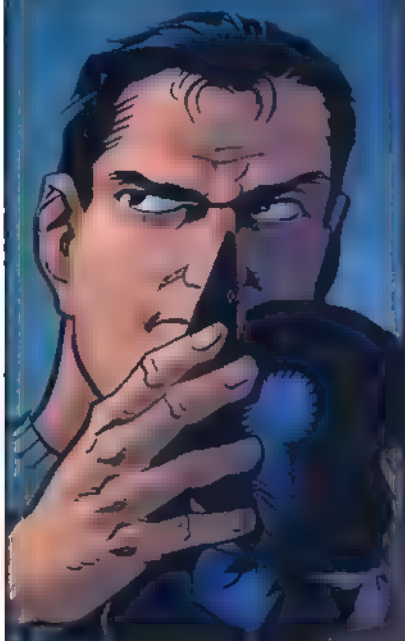


These frustrated efforts only serve to draw my attention back to this mysterious "MONK" and his vicious homicides.

The corpses drained of blood, the savage neck wounds...and, again, a lack of physical evidence

Gordon said the hearse revealed not so much as a stray hair and was tagged with phony out-of-state plates. Aside from that and a few illegal weapons charges, the police were forced to release most of the "Brotherhood" again.

It all points to a conclusion, a word that my analytical mind cannot yet accept.

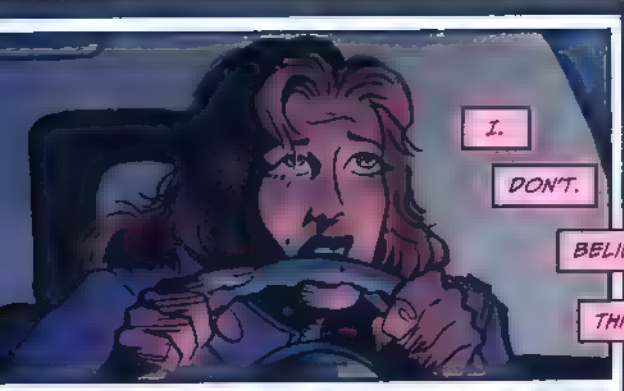
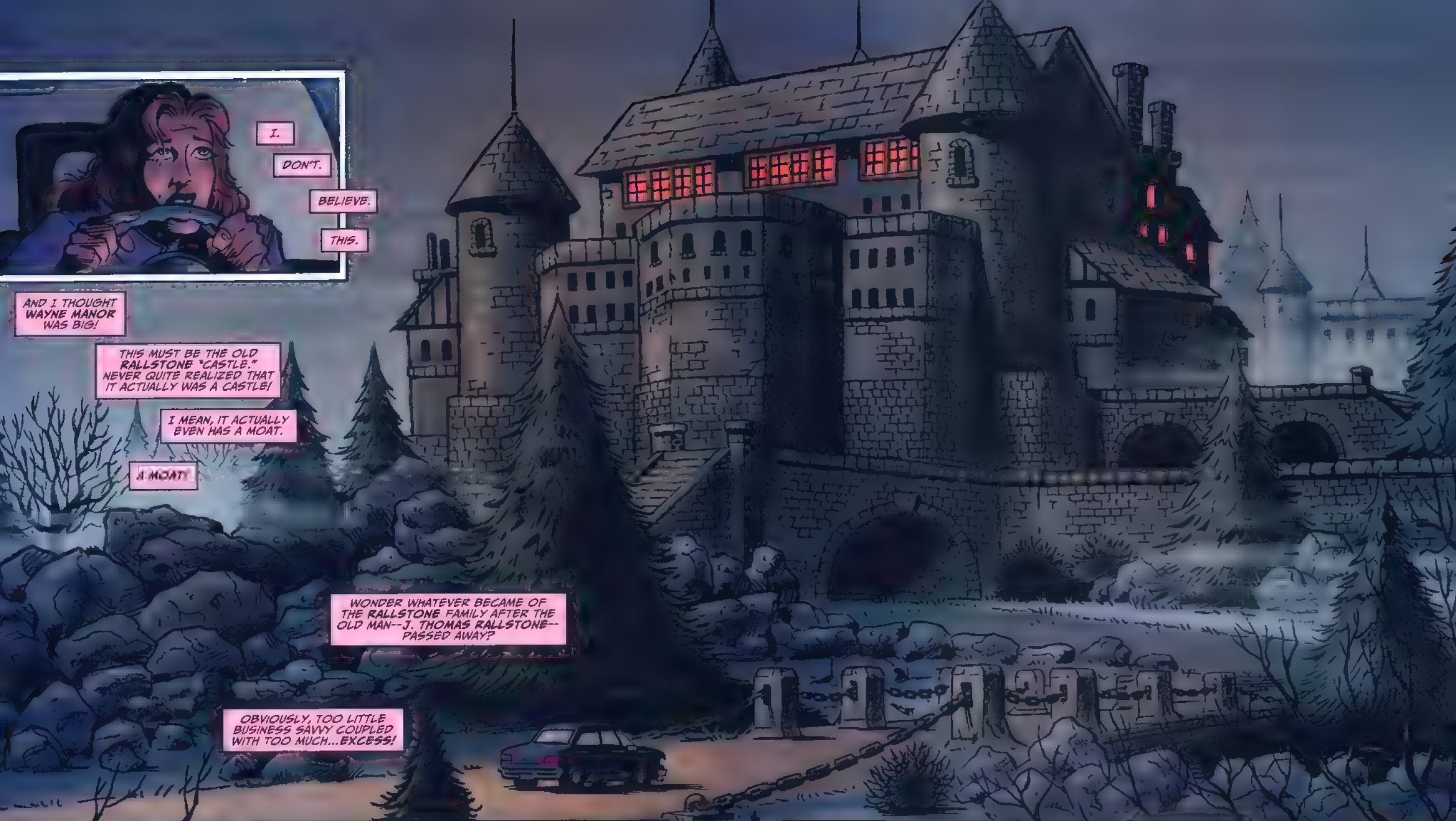


More likely, it's another melodramatic psychopath—one who thinks that GOTHAM is now a safe haven for "creatures of the night."

Again, I hate to consider the possibility.

Have I somehow... INSPIRED this?





I.
DONT.
BELIEVE.
THIS.

AND I THOUGHT
WAYNE MANOR
WAS BIG!

THIS MUST BE THE OLD
RALLSTONE "CASTLE."
NEVER QUITE REALIZED THAT
IT ACTUALLY WAS A CASTLE!

I MEAN, IT ACTUALLY
EVEN HAS A MOAT.

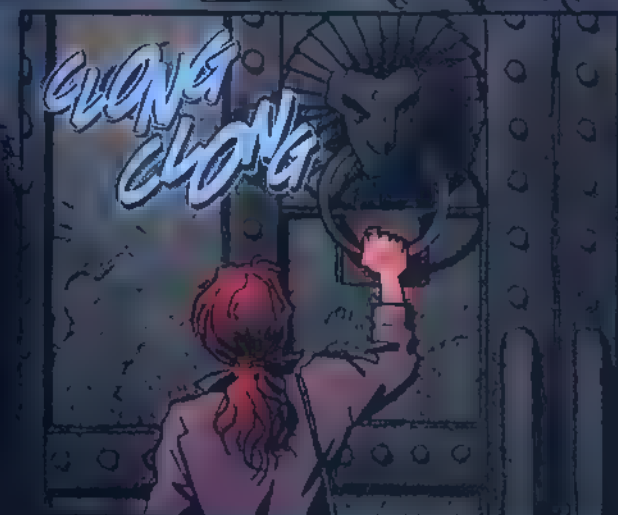
A MOAT!

WONDER WHATEVER BECAME OF
THE RALLSTONE FAMILY AFTER THE
OLD MAN--J. THOMAS RALLSTONE--
PASSED AWAY?

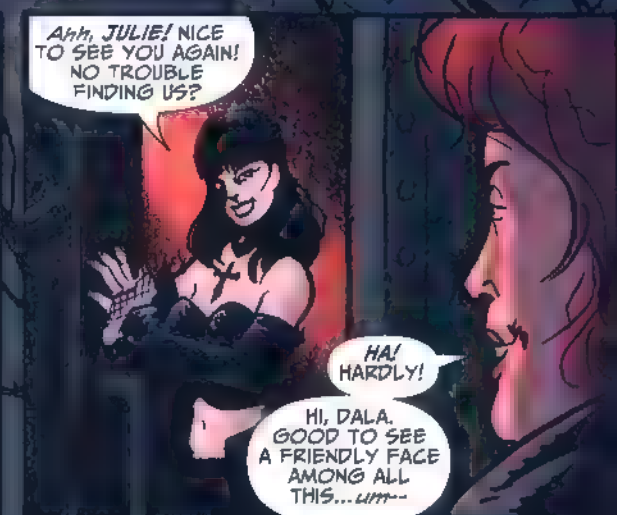
OBVIOUSLY, TOO LITTLE
BUSINESS SAVVY COUPLED
WITH TOO MUCH...EXCESS!



DIDN'T EVEN KNOW
THIS PLACE WAS STILL
STANDING, MUCH LESS
ON THE MARKET...



CLONG
CLONG



Ahh, JULIE! NICE
TO SEE YOU AGAIN!
NO TROUBLE
FINDING US?

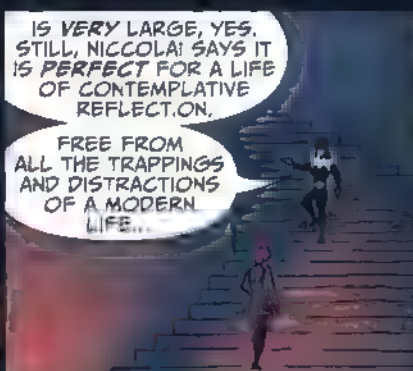
HA!
HARDLY!

HI, DALA.
GOOD TO SEE
A FRIENDLY FACE
AMONG ALL
THIS... UMM--



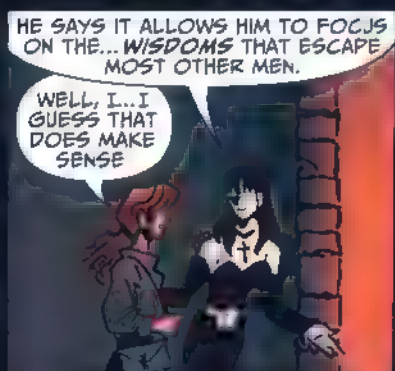
I KNOW. IT CAN ALL BE QUITE... INTIMIDATING, YES?

YOU SAID IT! I MEAN, THIS PLACE NEEDS ITS OWN ZIP CODE!



IS VERY LARGE, YES. STILL, NICCOLAI SAYS IT IS PERFECT FOR A LIFE OF CONTEMPLATIVE REFLECTION.

FREE FROM ALL THE TRAPPINGS AND DISTRACTIONS OF A MODERN LIFE...



HE SAYS IT ALLOWS HIM TO FOCUS ON THE... WISDOMS THAT ESCAPE MOST OTHER MEN.

WELL, I... I GUESS THAT DOES MAKE SENSE



BUT YOU WILL SEE FOR YOURSELF...

YOU MUST BE MS. MADISON. WELCOME TO THIS PLACE, MY HUMBLE HOME.

PLEASE, ENTER FREELY AND OF YOUR OWN WILL. MAY YOU FIND THE PEACE AND COMFORT YOU SEEK.

WHAT THE HELL AM I DOING HERE?!

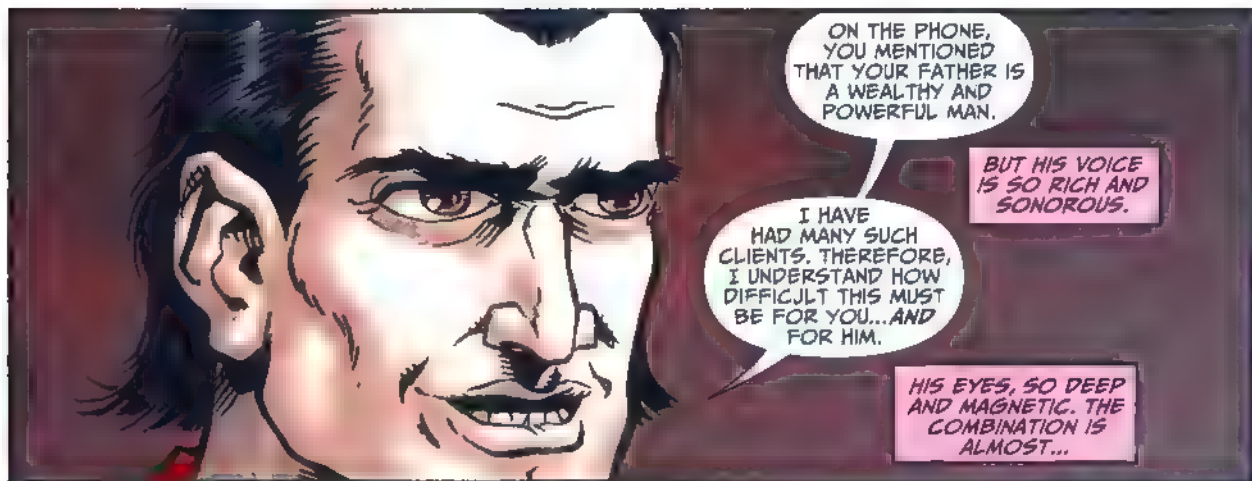
HE WEARS ROBES LIKE SOME KIND OF MONK!

HE LIVES IN A CASTLE!

Um, I... THANK YOU!



DADDY WILL NEVER, EVER GO FOR THIS!



ON THE PHONE,
YOU MENTIONED
THAT YOUR FATHER IS
A WEALTHY AND
POWERFUL MAN.

BUT HIS VOICE
IS SO RICH AND
SONOROUS.

I HAVE
HAD MANY SUCH
CLIENTS. THEREFORE,
I UNDERSTAND HOW
DIFFICULT THIS MUST
BE FOR YOU...AND
FOR HIM.

HIS EYES, SO DEEP
AND MAGNETIC. THE
COMBINATION IS
ALMOST...



...HYPNOTIC...

COME.

WE HAD AGREED
THAT THIS WOULD
BE A GETTING-TO-
KNOW-YOU SESSION.
SO LET'S SIT AND
HAVE IT.

YOU SEEM TO
NEED AN EAR, AND
I SHALL LOVE
TO LISTEN.



MAYBE HE CAN
HELP DADDY
AFTER ALL.

DALA, WE'LL
HAVE SOME TEA,
IF YOU PLEASE.

WELL, I... I JUST
HOPE THIS ISN'T... I JUST DON'T
WANT THIS TO ALL BE A WASTE
OF YOUR TIME. I HAVE NO IDEA
WHETHER I CAN CONVINCE MY
FATHER TO COME SEE
YOU OR NOT.

YOU SAID
HE HAS GROWN
RECLUSIVE?

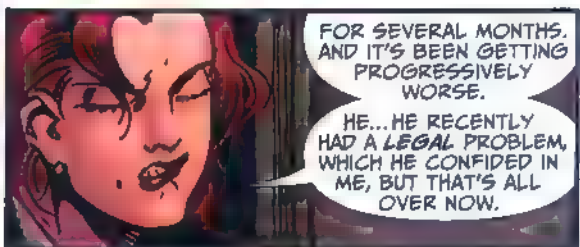
OH, LORD,
HE PRACTICALLY
BARRICADES HIMSELF
IN HIS STUDY. SURELY
THAT CAN'T BE
HEALTHY.



THAT ALL DEPENDS.
I, MYSELF, HAVE NOT LEFT
THE CONFINES OF THESE
STONE WALLS IN NEARLY
SEVEN YEARS.

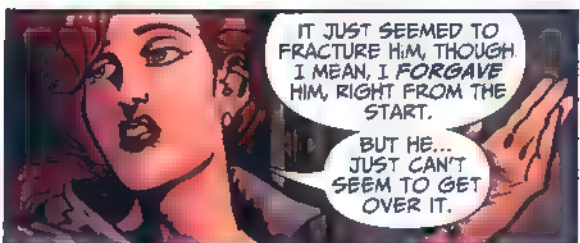
BUT IF YOUR
FATHER IS SEEKING
REFUGE OUT OF FEAR
OR DESPERATION, THEN
YOU HAVE JUST CAUSE
TO WORRY.

HOW LONG
HAS HE BEEN
LIKE THIS?



FOR SEVERAL MONTHS.
AND IT'S BEEN GETTING
PROGRESSIVELY
WORSE.

HE... HE RECENTLY
HAD A LEGAL PROBLEM,
WHICH HE CONFIDED IN
ME, BUT THAT'S ALL
OVER NOW.



IT JUST SEEMED TO
FRACTURE HIM, THOUGH
I MEAN, I FORGAVE
HIM, RIGHT FROM THE
START.

BUT HE...
JUST CAN'T
SEEM TO GET
OVER IT.

THE WORDS COME EASIER THAN I HAD THOUGHT.

FOR SOME STRANGE REASON, I'M FINDING COMFORT IN ALL THIS...

...AND SO THAT'S BASICALLY IT. I THINK HE NEEDS HELP, BUT GETTING HIM TO ADMIT IT IS QUITE ANOTHER STORY.

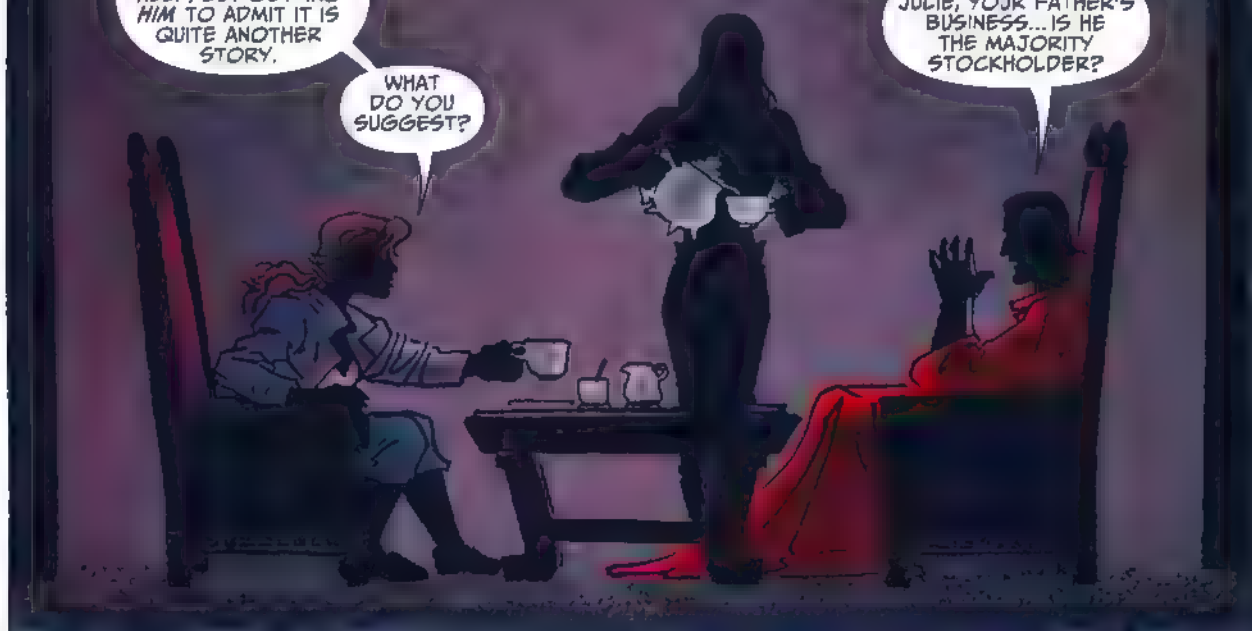
WHAT DO YOU SUGGEST?

IT MAY TAKE SOME TIME--BUT YOU IMPRESS ME AS A VERY CAPABLE PERSON.

I'M CERTAIN YOU WILL FIND A WAY TO CONVINCE HIM OF HIS... NEED.

THANK YOU, DALA.

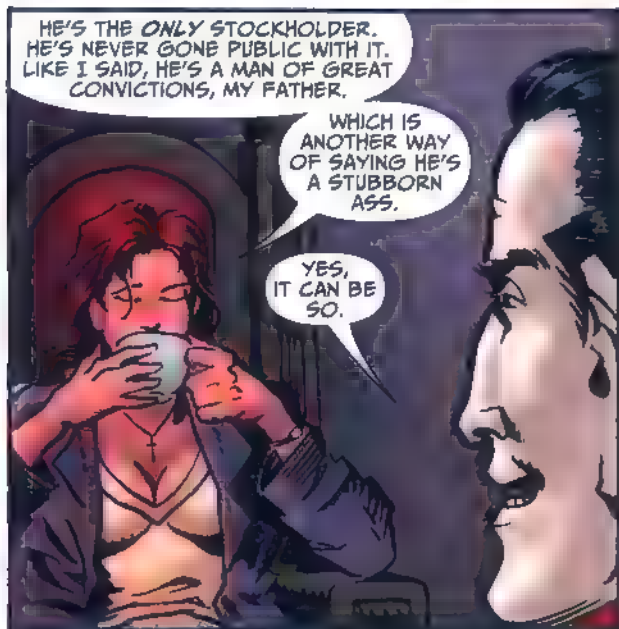
TELL ME, JULIE, YOUR FATHER'S BUSINESS... IS HE THE MAJORITY STOCKHOLDER?



HE'S THE ONLY STOCKHOLDER. HE'S NEVER GONE PUBLIC WITH IT. LIKE I SAID, HE'S A MAN OF GREAT CONVICTIONS, MY FATHER.

WHICH IS ANOTHER WAY OF SAYING HE'S A STUBBORN ASS.

YES, IT CAN BE SO.



HE'S ALWAYS... ALWAYS WANTED THE BEST FOR ME...

...AND NOW... NOW, I JUST WANT THE...

...THE BEST...

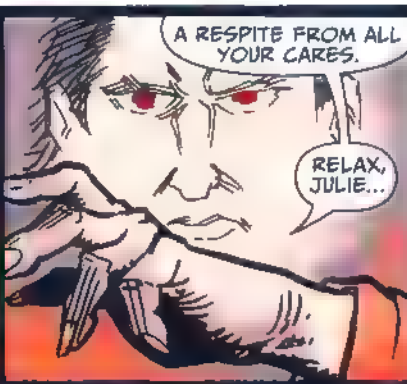
...BEST FOR HIM...

I'M SORRY, I... SUDDENLY, I FEEL--

WOOTZ



OH, MY DEAR... YOU ALSO NEED RELIEF.



A RESPITE FROM ALL YOUR CARES.

RELAX, JULIE...



DAMMIT, ALEX! THERE WAS NO NEED FOR THAT!

RELAX, JULE DON'T GET YOURSELF ALL WORKED UP.

THE WAY YOU TREATED THAT WAITRESS-- LIKE SHE WAS SUBHUMAN!

YOU'RE SAYING SHE ISN'T? LOUSY SLUT PROBABLY GETS OFF WORK AND TURNS TRICKS IN THE BACK OF SOME MIN VAN

WHY DON'T YOU GIVE YOUR TINY BRAIN A REST, ALEX? IT'S OBVIOUSLY OUT OF SHAPE FROM LACK OF USE.

NOW TAKE ME HOME!

YOU LITTLE SHREW! YOU THINK I'D LEAVE HERE--IN FRONT OF EVERYONE--OVER YOUR CONCERN FOR SOME...SERVANT!

I SHOULD--

NO!

YOU SHOULD...

BE ON YOUR WAY, MY FRIEND. WHILE YOU'RE STILL ABLE TO WALK.

AND DON'T EVER CALL ME AGAIN, ALEX!

YOU CREEP!

I WOULDN'T HOLD YOUR BREATH WAITING, SWEETHEART. BLEEDING-HEART WITCH!

AND YOU KEEP YOUR HANDS TO YOURSELF, "FRIEND"--OR I'LL BE FORCED TO CALL A COP!

MOVE IT

SORRY ABOUT THAT, MISS I HOPE I DIDN'T INTRUDE--

GLAD TO HEAR IT. MY NAME IS..

ARE YOU KIDDING? THAT GUY WAS A BAD MISTAKE I DON'T INTEND ON REPEATING.

OH, I KNOW WHO YOU ARE, MR WAYNE.

EVERYONE IN GOTHAM KNOWS WHO YOU ARE!

WELL THEN... IT LOOKS LIKE WE'RE ON UNEVEN TERMS.

HA! I THOUGHT YOU'D NEVER ASK. I'M..

WHY, NICCOLAI?
WHY DID YOU
LET HER GO? THE
BROTHERHOOD...

ALL IN GOOD
TIME, DEAR DALA.
THE BROTHERHOOD
HAS NEEDS BEYOND
WHAT'S FOUND IN
THE VEIN.

MS. MADISON'S
FATHER IS WORTH
MILLIONS, AND SHE IS HIS
ONLY HEIR. SUCH A FORTUNE
WOULD SECURE THE
BROTHERHOOD FROM ANY
AND ALL OUTSIDE
INTERFERENCE.

THE NIGHT
WOULD BE
OURS FOR ALL
ETERNITY.

NICCOLAI ALWAYS
KNOWS BEST.

HE GAVE HER THE VERY
BRIEFEST OF KISSES,
EVEN THOUGH I COULD
SEE HIS THROAT
CONSTRICTING... ACHING
TO GORGE HIMSELF.

HIS RESTRAINT
IS INSPIRING.

AS MY
INFLUENCE
OVER HER GROWS,
SHE WILL GAIN US
ACCESS TO HIS
FORTUNES. HIS
WEALTH WILL
BE OURS.

AND THEN THE
BROTHERHOOD
CAN RAVISH HER
AS ONE.

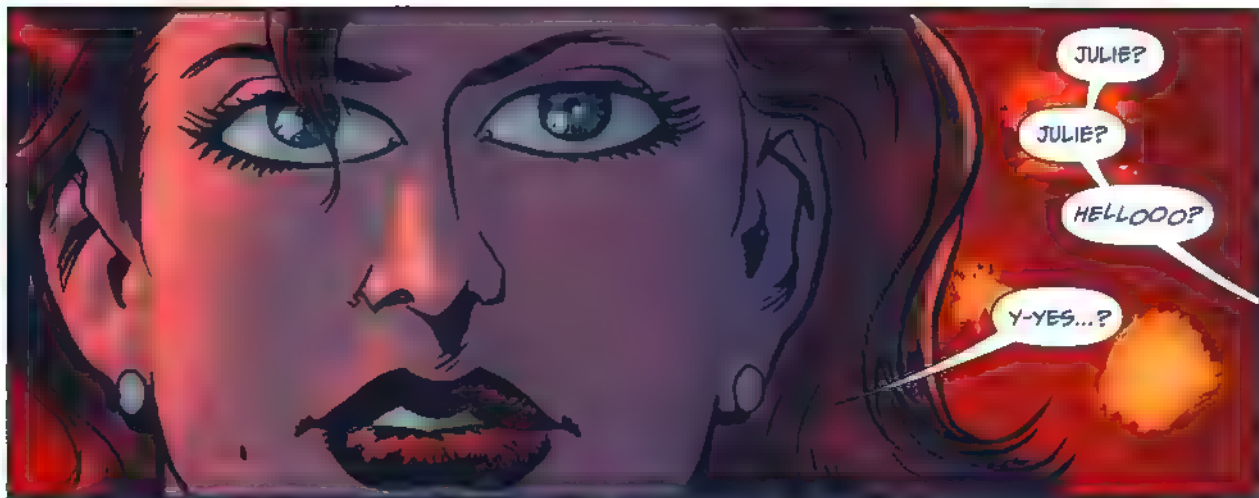
HER
FLUIDS WILL
ALSO ENRICH
US.

YES,
NICCOLAI.

NOW COME, WE
NEED TO SUMMON
THE MEMBERS. THEY
MUST WITNESS A
DISCIPLINARY
STRIKE.

WE HAVE
BEEN BETRAYED
BY ONE OF
OUR OWN!

HIS VENGEANCE
IS TERRIBLE TO
BEHOLD.



JULIE?

JULIE?

HELLOOO?

Y-YES...?



WHAT...
jahamé...
WHAT IS IT,
BRUCE?

WELL, YOU'VE JUST
BEEN SO DISTRACTED ALL
EVENING. I THOUGHT YOU
WOULD ENJOY THE
BALLET.

IS EVERYTHING
ALL RIGHT? ARE YOU
FEELING ILL?



OH!

NO, DARLING,
I'M... I'M FINE.
I JUST...

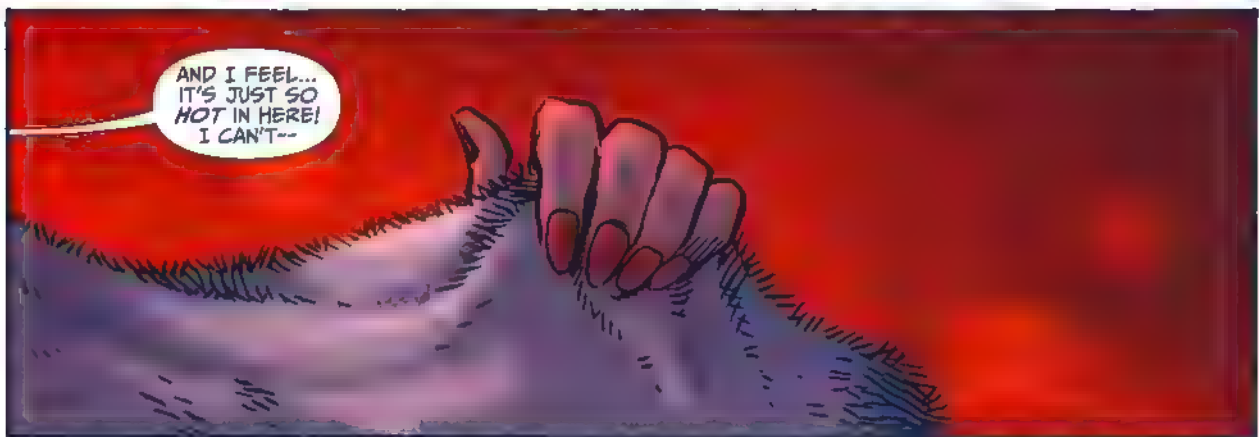
...I HAVE
A LOT ON
MY MIND... WHAT
WITH FINALS
APPROACHING
AND ALL.

AND I... HAVE
HAD A BIT OF
A HEADACHE
ALL DAY.

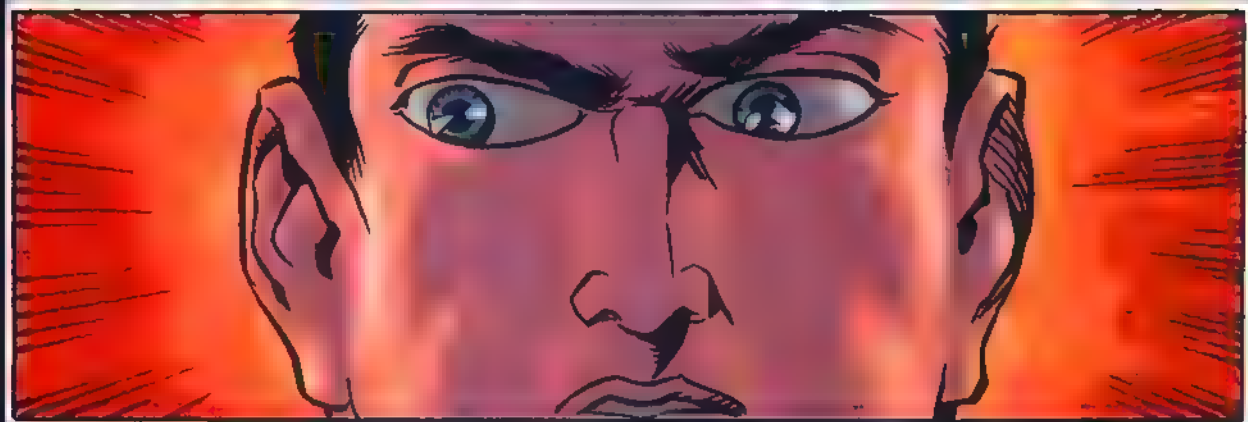
SHOULD
I TAKE YOU
HOME? WE
DON'T HAVE
TO--

NO... NO, I TOLD YOU...
I'M FINE! IT'S JUST...

...THIS HEADACHE.
CAN'T SEEM TO
CONCENTRATE...



AND I FEEL...
IT'S JUST SO
HOT IN HERE!
I CAN'T--



Ahhh...
THERE...

THAT'S BETTER.
MUCH BETTER!



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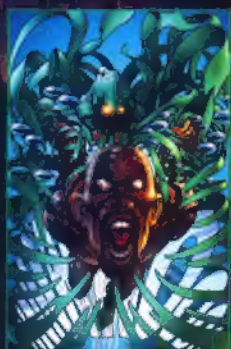
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HEAVEN HATH NO FURY LIKE **THE SPECTRE!**

TALES OF THE UNEXPECTED



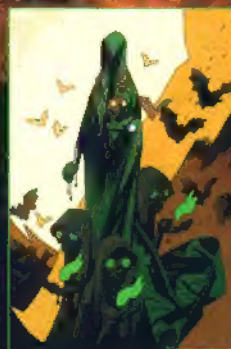
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